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EDITORS' TABLE.

EDITORS: A. S. PACKARD AND E. D. COPE.

— The statement is often made that teaching and original investigation are incompatible. This is not so; further, we maintain that he who is engaged in advanced studies in any department of science is far better adapted for fulfilling the functions of an instructor, at least in a college, than he who is content to allow others to make his discoveries for him. An instructor, to be thoroughly qualified to instruct, should keep himself thoroughly posted on all the recent discoveries in his province. Unless he be an original investigator he will fail to do so. He will rest content with the text-books and the little he can assimilate by reading abstracts and reviews in the semi-popular scientific journals; he will lack that enthusiasm without which no good results can be expected from the student. The original investigator has that enthusiasm. Without it he could not be compelled to go through all that drudgery which is necessary to produce good results. The student in coming into his presence is at once inspired to work, and to be thorough in his work. The original investigator is forced to keep up with the times. He must keep himself posted as to what is going on the whole world over, in order that he may not waste his time and energies in doing what has already been thoroughly performed. He goes to the bottom of his subject and his pupils may rely upon what he says; it will be the expression of the most recent opinion and will be authoritative so far as it lies in his special line. It may be said he will be narrow, and that he will have an exaggerated idea of the importance of the subject of his own chosen field. To a certain extent this is true, but not so far as one would at first think. All departments of any science are interdependent, and he who is specially engaged in one line is obliged to keep track of what is being done in the others, for he must turn in every direction for hints and comparisons. Some peculiar qualities of some substance described in the papers of some chemical journal may give the physicist just the points he needs to make some experiment a success. Some feature in the structure of a sea anemone may throw light on some problem in the development or the diseases of man. The original investigator is forced to explore every corner and keeps his mind stored with the latest discoveries, while his uninvestigating colleague sees only what chance throws in his way. Which one, other things being equal, will make the better instructor?